

## **Abstract**

5 A positive-working radiation-sensitive composition for use with a radiation source  
comprises one or more polymers capable of being dissolved in an alkaline aqueous  
solution and a development-enhancing compound. The composition is stable in its  
state before exposure and has an excellent handling property. The sensitivity of a  
radiation-sensitive coating based on the composition of this invention is increased  
without compromising the handling characteristics. Radiation-sensitive elements  
10 based on the composition of the invention have good development latitude. A  
positive-working lithographic printing precursor is based on the radiation-sensitive  
composition coated on a hydrophilic surface. The precursor is developable using an  
alkaline aqueous solution, and may be used with a radiation source in lithographic  
applications, such as conventional imaging systems, computer-to-plate systems or  
15 other direct imaging applications. The precursor is stable in its state before exposure  
and has an excellent handling property.